

May 8, 2020

Hello, Everyone:

“It shall come to pass(;) I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.” Joel 3:1a

This quote from Joel was not about COVID-19. But his time and our present times have few things in common. Prophet Joel was a farmer by profession. He and other farmers of his time entirely relied on rain for cultivation. Unfortunately, the rains failed, and unprecedented drought ensued. People were facing imminent threat of starvation and death. Some people were desperate and others going through hopelessness. It was a difficult and painful time for the Prophet Joel to engage in ministry. But he knew that he had to remind God’s people that God always loves them, no matter whether they are faithful and steadfast. So, Prophet Joel told his people, “It shall come to pass(;) I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.” In other words, the present crisis shall pass and there shall be rain and the fields will be green and an abundance of grains and food available.

So dear friends, as we are faced with COVID-19 and its horrific aftermath, please be sure, we shall not only come out of this deadly situation, we will emerge much stronger. This virus is doing lots of damage to us. There is a suspicion created in the minds of people when we meet each other. Whether I am a carrier of the virus or the other person. Secondly, we all work hard to earn a living. Now we cannot even work and some of us may need help from others to go on. That means our self-worth and self-esteem take a beating. It can lead to mental health problems. But please remember we are all the children of one Father. We are brothers and sisters so in time of need, we can accept help and provide help to others. That is in fact, the meaning of being a true Christian.

Fr. Joe

On April 30, 2020, Archbishop ListECKI had a meeting with the priests via Zoom. He feels the same pain and constraints that each one of us is going through. So, whenever we are able to assemble in a safe environment, he wants to give us a few guidelines. The Archbishop is looking at a timeframe, say by the Solemn Feast of Pentecost (May 31st) to partially reopen our churches. Even then only 25% of parishioners can assemble for worship. We will be required to keep the social distancing. Only weekend Masses shall be permitted. Number of Masses will be reduced, so that after each Mass, churches can be cleaned and disinfected. More information and directives will be sent out later.

Due to COVID-19, Archbishop ListECKI does not want us to distribute paper bulletins. Every Friday, the Sunday bulletin is on our website: <https://www.bt.btsje.org/blessed-trinity/bulletins/>. For people without Internet access, we would be happy to mail a bulletin to your home. Please contact Sandy in the Parish Office (sandy@btsje.org or 467-4616, Ext. 301).

If you have moved, about to move, are dropping your landline and have a cell phone, or have an e-mail address, please contact Sandy in the Parish Office (sandy@btsje.org or 467-4616, Ext. 301) so she can update your information. Our records are only as good as our parishioners letting us know. Thank you.

Special prayers for our mothers. Happy Mother's Day!

Fr. Joe

Please find time daily for prayer and reflection. On Sunday, WITI/FOX6 News Milwaukee is broadcasting Sunday Mass LIVE at 11 AM from The Cathedral of St. John Evangelist in Milwaukee. The Heart of the Nation My Sunday Mass on WVTM/My24 at 7:00 AM & 9:00 AM and on WITI/FOX 6 at 5:30 AM & 5:30 PM. The EWTN Sunday Mass at 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Rosary is 30 minutes prior to Mass times. The 9:00 AM Mass is available on Radio 920 AM, WOLF. Daily Mass on Relevant Radio: <https://relevantradio.com/faith/daily-mass-video/>

April 8, 2020

Hello, Everyone:

Prayerful Greetings!

"I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus." Romans 1:4

This is exactly my sentiments as well, as I write this note to you all; I pray for you always. Stay put. Trust in God and our God knows exactly our pain, loss, separation and grievances. The other day, as I was walking on our church yard, I saw a twig and I, like a child, picked it up and broke it, it broke easily. Then as though I wanted to prove something, I took 10 or more twigs and made a bundle of it and then tried to break it. No, I failed, so we know the lesson. It may be easy to break a single individual but when we are together, nobody can break us.

As we are facing this epidemic, God is telling us a few things. If only we do not become hard-hearted like the Israelites on their way to the Promised Land as mentioned in Exodus 17:7 and Psalm 95:8: "Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as on the day of Massah in the desert."

I do not want to suggest that God is punishing us. God is love and that Loving God wants to tell us some things which are extremely important, like:

- FIND TIME FOR GOD AND OBSERVE GOD'S DAY.
- MONEY AND GOING AFTER MONEY MAY BE IMPORTANT, BUT FAMILY AND ITS BONDS ARE MUCH MORE VALUABLE.
- WE, THE HUMAN BEINGS, CAN USE AND ENJOY GOD'S CREATION, BUT AS WE ENJOY GOD'S GIVEN BLESSINGS DO NOT FORGET THE GIVER.

We are in the Holy Week. Usually, we have some important rituals to go through. We try to find time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We observe the Day when the Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist, during that same celebration we have the greatest example of service, by washing the feet of our sisters and brothers. Then comes the solemn observance of Good Friday and after the Passion readings and Universal Prayer, we stop for a few minutes and try to comprehend the PRICE JESUS PAID FOR OUR SALVATION.

Please spend time in prayer and reflection. Please read the Passion narrative on Good Friday (Isaiah 52:13--53:12; Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Philippians 2:8-9; and the Gospel John 18:1--19:42). Let us accompany the Lord on his way to Calvary. Then wait for newness... Do we see our present situation? It will end in success. We shall overcome.

God bless,

Fr. Joe

As per the directives of our Archbishop, all our services on Holy Week and Easter Sunday celebrations are cancelled.

Readings for Holy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:34, AND the Gospel: John 13:1-15.

Readings for Easter Sunday-The Resurrection of the Lord: Acts 10:34A, 37-43; Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; and the Gospel: John 20:1-9.

At Blessed Trinity, the front church door on Giddings Avenue will be open for anyone who would like to come and pray:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - Noon
- Sunday: 10:00 am - Noon

You are invited to join us for Holy Week and Easter Mass by viewing the Masses online or on TV. Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI will preside at Masses from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Holy Week Masses will be broadcasted on Channels 18 and 24 (CW18/MY24) and Easter Mass will be broadcasted on Channel 12 (WISN-TV). An additional Easter Sunday Mass in Spanish will be broadcasted on Channels 18 and 24. The schedule is as follows:

CW18/MY24

- Thursday, April 9: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper LIVE at 7 pm
- Friday, April 10: Good Friday of the Lord's Passion LIVE at Noon
- Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday LIVE in Spanish at 1 p.m. (Archbishop ListECKI and Bishop James Schuerman presiding)

WISN-TV

- Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday LIVE at 11 am

All of the Masses will also be available online. Streaming will be live and links to the Masses can be found on www.archmil.org/Find-a-Mass.

The EWTN Mass schedule: Sundays at 7:00 am and 11:00 am. Rosary is 30 minutes prior to

Mass times. The 9:00 am Mass is available on Radio 920 AM, WOLF.

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee website for daily reflections is:

www.archmil.org/Daily-Reflection

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee website for CoVID-19 updates is:

<https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/CoVID-19-Updates.htm>

April 6, 2020

Hello, Everyone:

The Palm Sunday Mass was videotaped in 3 parts. Below are the links:

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/C9IU5E4iZI>

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/Mte1w-SrNM0>

Part 3: <https://youtu.be/0B-bL8yTFOg>

Palm Sunday: Due to updated directives from the Archdiocese, we will not be blessing and distributing Palms. According to the directives: "It is not only out of a health concern but also from our theological tradition that we will not be distributing palms. Palms are sacramentals, in this case flowing from the sacred liturgy, they are in some way derived from it and lead the people to it, since in fact the liturgy by its very nature is far superior to any sacramental. If people cannot respond right now to being drawn to the liturgy there is a danger the palms become more of sort of "charm" than a sacramental."

From the Archdiocese, there is a Holy Week Guide Booklet on our parish website. The guide is on our home page: <https://www.bt.btsje.org/> under the Masses section.

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- Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - Noon
- Sunday: 10:00 am – Noon

Fr. Joe

April 2, 2020

Hello, Everyone:

As per the directives of our Archbishop, all our services on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday celebrations are cancelled.

Readings for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalms 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11 and the Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66.

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- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - Noon
- Sunday: 10:00 am - Noon

Please do watch the Holy Mass on TV: WVTM, My24 at 7:00 am and 9:00 am and on WITI Fox 6 at 5:30 am. The EWTN Mass schedule: Sundays at 7:00 am and 11:00 am. Rosary is 30 minutes prior to Mass times. The 9:00 am Mass is available on Radio 920 AM, WOLF.

The 11:00 am Mass is live streamed on the Cathedral website:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrw_JySXFU94eYPgE_ILokQ

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee website for daily reflections is:
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The Archdiocese of Milwaukee website for CoVID-19 updates is:
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Fr. Joe

April 1, 2020

Hello, Everyone:

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In these difficult and painful times, I assure you of my prayer. Every day, I am celebrating Holy Mass, of course, without your physical presence. As I celebrate the Holy Eucharist, I see all of

you sitting in the pews and praying fervently to our living and loving God. So please, stay put. This dark cloud will be lifted.

Today, I am presenting a meditation for all. It is a difficult one. But at the same time, a realistic one. We all use an umbrella to protect us from all sorts of elements.

So, imagine God as a giant umbrella and you and your dear and near ones are under the protection of that great umbrella, God. So, for this we need to understand the very nature of God.

I love God not for a thing, but purely because God is God, including my God. I love God not because of favors I receive, not for God's infinite love, or because of anything else, but because God is God. This very concept is an awesome concept of God. Of course, it is kind of a pure abstract way to really understand who God is. Very many of us never think of God in this style.

In times of pain, isolation and constraints, we may not enjoy a concept of God whom we may feel is remote and far away. But we know the truth, whichever way an individual sees God, God's nature does not change. As St. John tells us emphatically in his letter that "God is love." 1 John 4:8 & 16a. When we feel lost and listless, we are inclined to believe God does not care for us and if otherwise we would not have to go through these difficult moments. But as we know truth, our faith and love of God do not insulate anyone from pain and isolation. But our faith enables us to go through life's negative and painful experiences with added hope, trust and confidence always knowing that God is with us.

You and I may not comprehend every detail of what we are going through. But the One who promised His abiding presence and grace is with us. So, let us move forward through the road ahead with unconditional trust and faith in the rock of our salvation.

Fr. Joe

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Readings for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalms 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11 and the Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

On ***Palm Sunday (April 5th)***, I shall bless palms and place them by the main church entrances. Please do come and collect them. Please do practice social distancing and guidelines given by authorities. So please do not come all together at one time. Blessed palms will be available throughout the week.

At Blessed Trinity, the front church door on Giddings Avenue will be open for anyone who would like to come and pray:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
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For Daily Reflection and to get Archdiocese updates, please go to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee website: <https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/CoVID-19-Updates.htm>.

March 27, 2020

Hello Everyone,

Prayerful greetings to everyone. As I mentioned in my letter last week, I celebrate Holy Mass everyday at 9 AM (alternate churches) keeping you in all in my prayers. Please stay well and follow the directives given by the health care and civil authorities. Since every person's cooperation is vital to defeat this unseen enemy, let us play our role well.

It is indeed a difficult and painful time. Usually, when we face difficult challenges we go to the Church and pray together for strength and stamina. This virus virtually puts a stop to this action.

The Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and concludes with the most holy and sacred feast of Easter, is upon us. Even in these days, we are barred from coming together. That brings lot of heart break and intense pain. This is unheard of and none of us has ever gone through something like this before. (Of course, if we check the list of epidemics, chronicled by Wikipedia, we can see millions of casualties caused by Encephalitis/Lethargica [1915-1926] and Spanish flu [1918-1920].)

As I reflect more about the aftermath of this horrible disease, I can see a veiled reference to Genesis 3:15: "I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your offspring and hers." Let me explain in the context of this disease, when people meet each other there is a suspicion and distance created thinking the other person may be carrying the virus. Maybe, I'm reading between the lines. Let us assure ourselves of this truth, that our God knows what is going on and that our loving God will not leave us alone even for a moment.

Please remember, even Jesus, our Savior, thought his God had forgotten him, when he cried out: "My God, My God, why have you forgotten me?" (Matthew 27:46 and Mark 16:34)

When we go through pain, isolation and constraints, we love to jump to the conclusions that God has left us. Often, in happy times, we hardly remember the blessings showered on us. In those moments, we take God for granted. Now let us take action. Let us come together to that loving God in prayer even in the isolation of our homes and residences. Let us knock at the door of heaven for healing and strength.

Fr. Joe

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On Palm Sunday (April 5th), I shall bless palms and place them by the main entrances of our churches. Please do come and collect them. Please do practice social distancing and guidelines given by authorities. So please do not come all together at one time. Blessed palms will be available throughout the week.

Please find time to pray.

Fr. Joe

March 25, 2020

A Short Story of C & D

Until the other day, D (David) thought C was a good and caring neighbor. They even had a lot of mutual appreciation for each other because thousands of proper names of people, objects and places start with their signature letters "C & D."

Everything changed the other day. Until this horrible and mysterious "19" with a prefix "CoVID-19." "19" (Nineteen) also thought its bad rap Nineteen would soon be over with Twenty (20) almost reaching close. Everything collapsed with that virus. Whoever thought the fortunes of so many will change to such extreme bad luck. Look at the streets, the villages and the cities. Looks frightening as though the evil ghosts with eerie and bloody faces making their rounds. Radios and TVs are constantly carrying the voices of Kings, Queens, Presidents and Governors alerting their people about the negative effects caused by "19" i.e. CoVID-19.

David was taking necessary precautions as he left his home for a walk. It is just horrible to go through the isolation. He can smell the sanitizer emitting from his body. All the bathroom tissues cannot take away the alcohol stink. No wonder he could not get fresh stock of this version of bathroom tissues. As David was taking the isolated trail, a thirteen looking teenager appeared on her bicycle and called out. Oh Covid, are you taking a stroll when "19" is all around you? David turned angrily and told the thirteen that his name was not Covid, but David. He just wanted to ignore the thirteen and move on. But thirteen persisted. Oh David, are you breaking the laws by publicly taking a walk in the forest? Obviously irritated, David told the thirteen to mind her business. But our educated thirteen persisted to inform David about the warnings and closings. She enthusiastically expressed gratitude to the local school authorities for the closing of schools.

Trying to escape from thirteen, David intentionally walked fast into the wooded area. Suddenly his mind travelled thousands of miles back to his namesake in Scripture, King David. God blessed him with every blessing. Still King David betrayed the trust. Suddenly David was struck with a notion. May be CoVID-19 is like Nathan, the Prophet. Telling us something...

Story by Fr. Joe

P.S. As per the directives of our Archbishop, all our services of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday celebrations are cancelled. More info to follow. Fr. Joe

March 24, 2020

Hello, Dear Friends:

Peace and joy in Christ Jesus.

Another week has gone by. I am aware of the fact that seconds, minutes and hours seem “longer than” normal. Of course, our present situation is not normal and all of us are trying to cope with this trying time.

Though I miss your physical presence during Masses on weekdays and especially on weekends, I know we are united in prayer. GOD IS WITH US! The bond that God has created is unbreakable. In two weeks, we shall enter the Holy Week. As you know, April 5th is Palm Sunday. As of today, we do not know what is in store for us.

These are very stressful times. Kids are at home. Parents may be out of work. Expenses are mounting. Bills still need to be paid. The litany of misfortune continues. These are hard times for everyone. This may look gloomy and uninspiring, but we are armed with God’s grace. We may have to trim our expenses. Please assure yourself that we shall get over it with God’s infinite love. We believe that God knows everything, and that our loving God is in control. Let us trust. Let us believe in this truth and convince ourselves it is truly so.

Masses on TV are available on the following TV stations: WVTM, My24 at 7:00 am and 9:00 am and on WITI Fox 6 at 5:30 am. The 9:00 am Mass is available on Radio 920 AM, WOLF, and the 11:00 am Mass is live streamed on the Cathedral website:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrw_JySXFU94eYPgE_ILokQ.

For daily reflection and to get Archdiocese updates, please go to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee website: <https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/CoVID-19-Updates.htm>. For the EWTN Mass schedule, go to their website at <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/schedule>.

Readings for the weekend of March 28 & 29, 2020, are: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11 and the Gospel: John 11:1-45.

At Blessed Trinity, the front church door on Giddings Avenue will be open for anyone who would like to come and pray:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

- Thursday: 10:00 am - 4:30 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am - 12 noon
- Sunday: 10:00 am - 12 noon

Let us stay united in Prayer, *Fr. Joe*

P.S. When Fr. Joe celebrates Mass, all intentions are included in the Mass.

Bulletins are on our website: <https://www.bt.btsje.org/blessed-trinity/bulletins/>. If you do not have Internet access, bulletins will be in the Parish Office entranceway and in the front church entrance.

March 18, 2020

Hello Everyone,

Peace and joy in Christ Jesus.

Due to the present crisis, we lost the chance to meet each other in the past weekend. May be another two weekends in the future as well. I would like to reassure you that I am praying for you every day especially when I celebrate Holy Mass every day at 9 AM, of course sadly without a congregation present. But the Lord who knows everything is watching over us.

This is a difficult and uneasy time. In history, 2000 years and going, when a crisis (war, plague or other major natural calamities) arose, the faithful rushed to their parish church or shrines to pray and worship and unload their pains and fears. In this present crisis, we cannot do that. That hurts and adds to the injury. But still obeying the social distancing suggested by the civil and medical authorities, we can come together in the spirit of prayer. Even if each one of us is praying from our homes, our prayers are being pooled together by the Spirit. So, let us pray, pray a lot. This may be another chance for the members of the families to come together and pray. Praying the rosary is simple enough and the whole family can be part of. Reading the Holy Scripture and spending some time in reflection are highly beneficial. LET US BRING BACK GOD at the center of our lives.

After following the civil and medical authorities' directives, let us put our whole faith in God. Allow God to calm our fears and smooth our worries.

I shall be celebrating Holy Mass every day at 9 AM (of course without a congregation present). I shall be praying for you, our Nation, our health care workers and for the entire humanity.

Please keep an eye on vulnerable members. If they need help, please call the office. Our parishes will try to help.

Masses on TV are available on the following TV stations: WVTM My24 at 7:00 am & 9:00 am and on WITI Fox 6 at 5:30 am. The 9:00 am Mass is available on Radio 920 AM, WOLF, and the 11:00

am Mass is live streamed on the Cathedral website
(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrw_JySXFU94eYPgE_ILokQ).

Readings for the weekend of March 21 & 21, 2020 are: I Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14 and Gospel John 9:1-41.

God Bless and Be healthy and safe!

Fr. Joe

March 17, 2020

RE: Masses

Faithful Parishioners,

Effective Wednesday, March 18, per Archbishop ListECKI, public celebration of Masses will be suspended in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This will last until Friday, April 3. This suspension includes all weekday and weekend Masses as well as Communion Services which took place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at St. John's. Father Joe will be celebrating Mass on Wednesdays & Fridays at 9:00 am at St. John's, Thursdays at 9:00 am at Blessed Trinity, Saturdays at 4:00 pm at St. John's, and Sundays at 9:00 am at Blessed Trinity, but no worshippers are allowed to participate. In other words, Church will be locked during the Mass time. The Archbishop will re-evaluate these measures on April 1 and additional communications will be made at that time.

Due to this directive, the Lenten Reconciliation, which was scheduled for this Saturday, March 21, at St. John's as well as the Lenten Reconciliation scheduled at Blessed Trinity on Saturday, March 28, has been cancelled. As of now, the 12 Hours of Reconciliation which will take place at St. Peter Claver on April 1, will continue as scheduled. Also, Stations of the Cross which are scheduled on Fridays during Lent are also cancelled.

As announced at Masses last weekend, Religious Education Classes throughout the Archdiocese have also been suspended. We will provide more information when it becomes available. Any questions about Religious Education can be directed to Lisa Gross at lisa@btsje.org.

During this time, the Catholic Life Center is also closed.

The two Sunday Masses at the Cathedral are still being celebrated but there will be no people present. The 9:00 am Mass is available on Radio 920 AM, WOLF, and the 11:00 am Mass is live streamed on the Cathedral website. Other TV Masses are available on WVTM, My24 at 7:00 am and 9:00 am, and on WITI Fox 6, at 5:30 am.

At Blessed Trinity, the north side church door will be open from 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Please use this time for private prayer and meditation.

In place of Mass, you are encouraged to spend time with your family in prayer, pray the Rosary each night, and/or choose a Bible passage to read and discuss as a family.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office. This is a trying and uncertain time. We will get through this with the love and support of God. Any updates to the above information will be communicated.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Joe